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Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 2 April 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 29 March 2013, regarding the unscheduled, large-scale military drills by the Russian armed forces in the Black Sea region (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 34, entitled "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", and of the Security Council in accordance with rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

(*Signed*) Vakhtang **Makharoblishvili**
Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Georgia
to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 April 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the unscheduled, large-scale military drills by the Russian armed forces in the Black Sea region

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses grave concern about the decision of the President of the Russian Federation to order unscheduled, large-scale military exercises of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the Black Sea region. Official Russian sources indicate that as many as 7,000 troops, including marines and aviation personnel, and more than 30 vessels are taking part in the exercises, which are being held in close proximity to the land and maritime borders of Georgia. Russian officials have not disclosed the duration, exact area and location of force deployment.

The current drills are unscheduled, unusual and go beyond the usual location of the armed forces and so are not in the spirit of the 2011 Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. Nor do they represent a proportional response to an imminent threat.

The action of the Russian Federation runs contrary to the interests of stability and predictability in the European neighbourhood. Georgia is alarmed by the unexpected, provocative activity of the Russian troops, as well as by the potential use of the facilities, weaponry and/or personnel of the occupation forces of the Russian Federation within Georgia's internationally recognized borders in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region, Georgia.

Unilateral military actions cause Georgia special concern in the context of the continued refusal by the Russian Federation to reciprocate the unilateral, legally binding pledge on the non-use of force made by the President of Georgia in 2010, which was reaffirmed by the Georgian Parliament in a unanimous declaration on 7 March 2013.

Georgia calls on the international community to redouble its efforts to ensure that the Russian Federation fulfils the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and make tangible steps towards the establishment of a credible regime of non-use of force between Georgia and the Russian Federation, underpinned by international security arrangements.